

Northwestern

Practicum Foundations of Online Teaching

The Practicum on the Foundations of Online Teaching is a three-week program providing Northwestern University instructors with crucial knowledge and skills related to online teaching, equipping participants with skills, strategies, tools, and knowledge to translate and reconceptualize the in-class experience into an online learning environment.

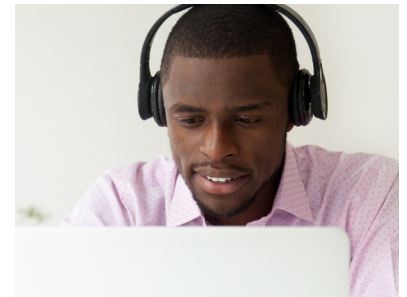
WHO
Any instructor at Northwestern can take the practicum, from TA to tenured professor.
WHAT
A three-week engagement held synchronously and asynchronously intended to introduce key concepts and skills in online teaching.
WHERE
Online! Where else?
WHY
Teaching online is not just picking up your face-to-face class and moving it online. The practicum emphasizes the best techniques for engaging students in learning as they join from a distance.
WHEN
Learn about upcoming sessions and register: bit.ly/dlpracticum

Is it right for me?

If you will be teaching an online class soon and are relatively new to teaching online, the answer is yes! If you are interested in engaging with peers for a few hours a week as you craft excellent courses, the answer is yes!

By the end of this practicum, you will have:

- A course map for one of your courses
- A Canvas course site for one of your courses
- A small group cohort for ongoing support



“Invest your time. These tools and ideas can transform your teaching.”

How is it taught?

The practicum is a model of an online course that balances asynchronous and synchronous elements. It is premised on the universal design for learning framework and emphasizes providing flexibility to optimize the student experience. It provides accessibility accommodation implementation strategies as well as practical examples of how to integrate equity and inclusion in an online learning environment.

What will I gain?

By the completion of the practicum, you will be able to:

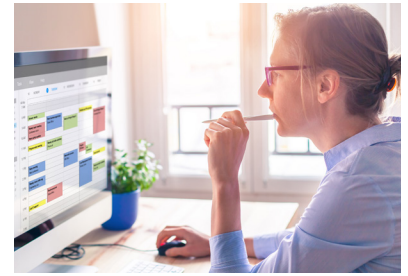
- Design or re-design courses using synchronous and asynchronous components
- Implement universal design for learning elements in your courses
- Implement accommodations in a remote setting
- Reflect critically on your teaching and students' learning
- Apply research-based best practices, tools, and methods to your online teaching
- Center equity and inclusion in your courses

“Bounce ideas off peers and facilitators. Everyone is very supportive and eager to learn from each other.”

What's the schedule?

Participants are invited to a three-week course and can expect to spend 4 to 5 hours/week in the practicum. All resources remain available after the program concludes. A sample schedule:

WEEK 1		
DAY 1	Kickoff meeting	1 hour
DAY 2	Core session 1: Universal Design for Learning	1.5 hour
DAY 4	Consultation with learning designer group session	1 hour
WEEK 2		
DAY 1	Core session 2: Active Learning in an Online Environment	1.5 hour
DAY 3 or 4	Consultation with learning designer	.5 hour
DAY 4	Core session 3: Quality Online Course Design	1.5 hour
WEEK 3		
DAY 1	Peer review of course designs	1.5 hour
DAY 2 or 3	Consultation with learning designer	.5 hour
DAY 5	Cohort final session	1.5 hour
OPTIONAL SESSIONS		
Additional sessions offered on motivating students, building online community, Zoom practice, etc.		1 hour



“I have deeply appreciated all of the care and feeding that has gone into ensuring that instructors are providing the students with the highest quality learning experiences.”

The reviews are in...

“Jump in! Get started now and don't be afraid to try new things and ask questions.”

“[A] reinvigorated interest in deep thinking in teaching and learning [will] transform your teaching.”

“Life changing consultations.”

“Open your mind to all possibilities; don't try to just move your live material into online; rethink what is possible.”

“Canvas site with the videos were extremely valuable. I like [the] small group meetings, found immensely reassuring to talk with others who are doing this.”

“The skills I learned related specifically to Canvas, Zoom, Panopto, digital resources and accessibility were directly applied in my course. I also applied the universal design elements in developing the course. The practicum was very influential and made me feel more confident and comfortable teaching online this summer.”



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